

Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 507): Aye.

H.Con.Res. 331—Expressing the Sense of Congress Concerning the Inadequacy of Sewage Infrastructure Facilities in Tijuana, Mexico: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 508): Aye.

H.Res. 557—Expressing Support for the U.S. Government Efforts to Identify Holocaust-Era Assets: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree (Roll Call No. 509): Aye.

H.R. 3874—Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments of 1998: On the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Conference Report (Roll Call No. 510): Aye.

H.J.Res. 133—Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal year 1999: On Passage (Roll Call No. 511): Aye.

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Question of Privilege—noticed by Mr. Vislosky on Oct. 8, 1998: On motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair (Roll Call No. 512) Aye.

H.Res. 589—Waiving Clause 4(b) of rule XI for special rules and suspensions On ordering the Previous Question—(Roll Call No. 513) Aye.

H.Res. 588—Rule governing consideration of H.R. 4761 On agreeing to the resolution—(Roll Call No. 514) Aye.

H.Res. 592—Providing for concurrence by House with amendment in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4110. On suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution—(Roll Call No. 515) Aye.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF MAMMOGRAPHY AND BIOPSIES IN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives approved H. Res. 565, a resolution emphasizing the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer. Since October is "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month," it is particularly appropriate that the House passed this resolution before adjournment.

Last month, I was proud to work with Chairman BILEY to secure approval by the House of Representatives of H.R. 4382, legislation to reauthorize the Mammography Quality Standards Act. This important law was enacted in 1992 to improve the quality of breast cancer screening exams by establishing national standards for mammography facilities. Without question, it has been an overwhelming success.

Screening mammography is currently the most effective technique for early detection of breast cancer. This procedure can identify small tumors and breast abnormalities up to two years before they can be detected by touch. More than 90 percent of these early stage cancers can be cured, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The use of screening mammography provides a ray of hope in the fight against breast cancer. Early detection of breast cancer

through accurate and reliable mammograms can spare women from undergoing radical surgery—and often save their lives. Enactment of H.R. 4382 will help reduce the threat of breast cancer by providing women the tools they need to detect this terrible disease in its early stages.

As chairman of the Health and Environment Subcommittee, however, I believe the federal government can and should do more to support cancer research. Specifically, I support an increased financial commitment to fund the biomedical research necessary to find a cure for breast cancer.

To that end, I have endorsed a proposal to double Federal funding for the National Institutes of Health over the next five years. I have also authored legislation to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of any income tax refund to support NIH research efforts.

For the hundreds of thousands of patients, families, caregivers and friends whose lives have been touched by breast cancer, we must renew and strengthen our commitment to ending this terrible disease. H. Res. 565 places appropriate emphasis on the importance of mammograms and biopsies in the fight against breast cancer, and I urge Members to support this resolution.

EXPRESSING CONCERNS REGARDING INDONESIA'S PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN WEST PAPUA NEW GUINEA (IRIAN JAYA)

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 10, 1998

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have come before our colleagues and the Nation several times regarding Indonesia's brutal suppression of the Melanesian people of West Papua New Guinea, or Irian Jaya province, as the Indonesian Government has renamed West Papua.

Last month, I welcomed the announcement of a significant development in the Indonesian Government's position on West Papua. According to press reports from Jakarta, Indonesia's President B.J. Habibie agreed to call for a national dialog on West Papua as soon as possible.

The proposed dialogue, supported by Indonesian Parliamentary leader Abdul Gafur and the Indonesian Council of Protestant Churches, was to address a three-part agenda covering: (1) human rights, (2) autonomy matters, and (3) issues of independence.

Although President Habibie's pronouncement was very welcome news, I am disturbed by recent developments in West Papua that have called into question his sincerity in pushing for true reform.

Within the past week, the Indonesian authorities have shown a shocking disregard for political openness in West Papua by arbitrarily incarcerating several leaders and local officials in West Papua.

On October 1, Amnesty International issued an action alert regarding the arrest of Don Falsy, a respected civil servant with the Regional Development Planning Body in Jayapura.

According to Amnesty International, it is "concerned for the safety of Don Falsy who

has been in detention since 29 September 1998 and who has been denied access to his lawyers, raising fears that he is at risk of ill-treatment."

Amnesty International states that "Don Falsy was arrested without a warrant at his home in Jayapura, the capital of the province of Irian Jaya, by local police and taken . . . he continues to be detained."

Noting that Don Falsy's arrest is in connection with his alleged role in planning a meeting in Jayapura to discuss the independence of West Papua, Amnesty International states that "Don Falsy is a possible prisoner of conscience who appears to have been detained for the peaceful exercise of his beliefs."

Mr. Speaker, the arrest of Don Falsy for his political beliefs is not an isolated case. Also taken into custody last week for the association with Don Falsy were church leader, Reverend Augustinus Ansanai, and two local officials, Baas Yufuwai and Marinus Mehuwe. And just yesterday, another prominent Papuan leader, Theys H. Eluay, was arrested by the Indonesian police on questionable charges of subversion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to join Amnesty International in calling upon the Indonesian Government to allow Don Falsy and other jailed Papuan leaders immediate, regular and on-going access to their lawyers. Furthermore, we request that the Indonesian authorities ensure that these prisoners of conscience are protected from ill-treatment, and that they be promptly released from custody if they are being held solely for the peaceful expression of their belief in support of West Papuan independence.

Mr. Speaker, while the Government of Indonesia has committed itself to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—including Article 19 which holds that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression . . ."—the recent arrests in West Papua are a flagrant violation of this solemn commitment for which Jakarta should be condemned and held accountable.

COMBAT TROOPS PULL OUT OF IRIAN JAYA

JAKARTA, Indonesia (October 4, 1998—British Broadcasting Corporation)—The Indonesian armed forces are reported to have ended their special operations in the province of Irian Jaya. The move comes amid mounting evidence of past army atrocities. Irian Jaya is the third region in the Indonesian archipelago where the military has scaled down its activities following President Suharto's resignation.

Pro-independence rebels have engaged in a low-level conflict with the military in Irian Jaya since the mid 1960s. The decision by the armed forces to end the special status of Irian Jaya follows a cease fire agreement with one of the rebel groups. Antara, the state-run news agency, quoted a regional commander as saying combat troops would withdraw but other soldiers would remain to guarantee security.

Major-General Amir Sembiring said a cease fire had been agreed to between the military and the separatist Free Papua Movement (OPM) rebels. "The military operation status has been revoked and our activities will be shifted to safeguard vulnerable areas," he added. But he also said he had ordered the immediate arrest of protesters who had raised separatist flags in the northern town of Manokwari on Friday.

ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE AND KILLINGS

The military's withdrawal follows a new policy of reducing activity in troubled areas